

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 13th February 1886.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Assam Vilasini"	Sibsagar ...	.....	
2	"Assam News"	Ditto ...	450	
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
3	"Ahamnadi"	Tangail, Mymensingh..	.....	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	800	3rd February 1886.
5	"Purva Darpan"	Ditto ...	700	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrika"	Calcutta ...	700	8th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto ...	102	5th ditto.
8	"Bangabasi"	Ditto ...	20,000	6th ditto.
9	"Bharatbasi"	Ditto ...	3,000	6th ditto.
10	"Bharat Mihir"	Ditto ...	2,500	4th ditto.
11	"Bheri and Kushadaha"	Ditto ...	.....	5th ditto.
12	"Burdwan Sanjivani"	Burdwan ...	302	2nd ditto.
13	"Charuvarta"	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	1st ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakash"	Dacca ...	450	7th ditto.
15	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	825	5th ditto.
16	"Gramvarta Prakashika"	Comercolly ...	500	
17	"Hindu Ranjika"	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	200	3rd ditto.
18	"Kamala"	Calcutta ...	.....	
19	"Mussulman Bandhu"	Bhowanipore, Calcutta	.....	
20	"Murshidabad Patrika"	Berhampore ...	508	3rd ditto.
21	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi"	Ditto ...	.....	
22	"Nava Medini"	Midnapore ...	.....	
23	"Navavibhakar"	Calcutta ...	1,000	8th ditto.
24	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet ...	450	6th ditto.
25	"Praja Bandhu"	Chandernagore ...	995	5th ditto.
26	"Pratikar"	Berhampore ...	600	22nd January 1886.
27	"Purva Bangabasi"	Noakholly ...	.....	
28	"Rungpore Dik Prakash"	Kakiniá, Rungpore ...	205	4th February 1886.
29	"Sadharani"	Calcutta ...	812	7th ditto.
30	"Sahachar"	Ditto ...	500	3rd ditto.
31	"Samaya"	Ditto ...	2,350	8th ditto.
32	"Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	4,000	6th ditto.
33	"Saptahik"	Ditto ...	.....	
34	"Saraswat Patra"	Dacca ...	400	30th January 1886.
35	"Som Prakash"	Changripottá, 24-Perghs.	1,000	8th February 1886.
36	"Srimanta Saudagar"	Calcutta ...	.....	
37	"Sudhapan"	Ditto ...	.....	
38	"Sulabha Samachar"	Ditto ...	3,000	
39	"Surabhi and Patika"	Ditto ...	700	4th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
40	"Dainik"	Calcutta ...	7,000	7th to 10th February 1886.
41	"Samvad Prabhakar"	Ditto ...	200	6th, 8th, and 11th ditto.
42	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	6th, 9th, 12th, and 13th ditto.
43	"Samachar Chandrika"	Ditto ...	625	3rd, 4th, 6th, and 8th ditto.
44	"Banga Vidyá Prakashika"	Ditto ...	500	5th, 8th, and 11th ditto.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
45	"Kshatriya Pratika"	Patna ...	.....	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
46	"Chumparun Hitakari"	Bettia ...	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	"Behar Bandhu"	Bankipore ...	.....	
48	"Bharat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	1,500	
49	"Sar Sudhanidhi"	Ditto ...	500	2nd February 1886.
50	"Uchit Bakti"	Ditto ...	4,500	6th ditto.
51	"Hindi Samachar"	Bhagulpore ...	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
52	"Jam-Jahan-numa"	Calcutta ...	250	5th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
53	"Gauhar"	Calcutta ...	196	
54	"Sharaf-ul-Akhbar"	Behar ...	150	
55	"Al Punch"	Bankipore ...	.....	5th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
56	"Akhbar-i-darusaltanat"	Calcutta ...	340	
<i>Daily.</i>				
57	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	212	4th to 12th February 1886.
URIA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
58	"Taraka"	Cuttack ...	.....	
59	"Shaksabandhu"	Ditto ...	.....	
60	"Pradip"	Ditto ...	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
61	"Utkal Dipika"	Cuttack ...	200	30th January 1886.
62	"Balasore Samvad Vahika"	Balasore ...	205	28th ditto.
63	"Sebaka"	Cuttack ...	200	30th ditto.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Pratikár*, of the 22nd January, says that Germany is extending commerce in China and cultivating its friendship. A Company of German merchants have agreed to advance a loan of Rs. 35,00,00,000 to that country for the construction of railways and similar works. The English have become very anxious at this intelligence. The extension of German commerce in China means obstruction to English commerce. No one can trust the English. They have by their own acts forfeited the confidence of the people.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 22nd, 1886.

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 2nd February, says that Lord Salisbury has stated in a speech in the House of Lords that Burmah will, instead of being a burden to the Indian treasury, bring it surplus revenue. Burmah is a small country with a revenue of Rs. 1,50,00,000. It will not be able to bear the cost of English administration, which is very high. Highly-paid Deputy Commissioners will be employed in it. Troops will be sent to establish peace. The writer does not believe that Burmah will be able to bear the cost of all this. When a rich country like India is becoming impoverished under English rule, the future condition of Burmah can very well be imagined. If Burmah can yield a surplus revenue, let it enjoy that surplus. Let there be no connection between India and Burmah. India does not like to become rich with other people's money.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 2nd, 1886.

3. The *Sahachar*, of the 3rd February, says that when Mr. Gladstone has not expressed any opinion on the Burmese question, it appears that the arrangements proposed by Lord Dufferin after his visit to Burmah will be adopted. Burmah has lost her independence. It will be sufficient if order is soon established there.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 3rd, 1886.

4. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 5th February, says that the people of India, which is comparatively a rich country, find it difficult to pay in taxes Rs. 2 per head. But the Burmese people are expected to pay Rs. 4 each. The editor is sure that this revenue cannot be realized. The country will not be able to pay the high cost of the English administration. So it will be impossible for the greedy English to rule satisfactorily a country like Burmah. Many think that the change of ministry will settle the question. But the writer thinks that the ministry will be occupied with Irish affairs. The ministry are under the impression that if there be any deficit in Burmah, India will be able to supply it.

PRAJA BANDHU,
Feb. 5th, 1886.

5. The same paper is unwilling to write anything more on Burmah. The English, who boast of their truthfulness, are representing those who are fighting for their country as dacoits and as low, and hateful people. The writer asks the English what would be their feeling if a powerful nation were to conquer England and deport Queen Victoria and Mr. Gladstone in the same way as Theebaw and Tinedah Mengyee have been deported by them.

PRAJA BANDHU.

6. The *Sanjivani*, of the 6th February, says that at the time of removing King Theebaw from Mandalay his Queen was *enciente*, and so it was requested that she should not be removed till her delivery. But the request was not granted. The Queen has recently died in child-bed. Who is responsible for this murder? No human tribunal will take cognizance of this crime, but there is a Judge above who will do justice in this case.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

BHARAT BASI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

7. The *Bhārat Bāsi*, of the 6th February, says that Lord Dufferin has proceeded to Burmah to determine the fate of that country. The Conservative Ministry has fallen. The Liberals are now in power. Many of the Liberal leaders have expressed their opinion against the annexation of Burmah. They should now act up to their convictions, otherwise people will consider them to be hypocrites. It sometimes so happens that a retiring Government ties up the hands of an in-coming Government by its acts. The new Government should not in many such cases reverse the policy of its predecessor. But the question of the annexation of Burmah is still an open one, and Lord Dufferin has proceeded to Burmah to settle it. There is yet time to give the country back to native rule. Theebaw might have been prone to oppression, and he has been very well punished. But his family and his people should not be made to suffer for his fault. They have not certainly displeased the English merchants. The English do not punish the posterity of murderers. Why, then, should the English punish the posterity of King Theebaw?

DAINIK,
Feb. 7th, 1886.

8. The *Dainik*, of the 7th February, says that the result of Mr. Macaulay's embassy to China is not yet known, and yet the English papers say that an embassy will be soon sent to Lhasa in Thibet. The writer does not understand why the English engage in such things and court gratuitous insult.

An Embassy to Lhasa.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

9. The *Ananda Bazar Patrikā*, of the 8th February, says in reference to the present condition of Upper Burmah that it is difficult to know whether the Burmese, who are fighting with the British soldiers, really possess strength. It is, however, noteworthy that the more cruelly the English are treating them, the more lawless they are becoming. If they had not been strong, they would have been completely put down by the British army. The public are not being informed of the cruelties that are being practised by the English in Upper Burmah. It is reported by newspaper correspondents that the jails are being filled by the Burmese without any attempt being made to ascertain whether or not a person is guilty. Oppression has converted the Burmese population into demons, and they have cast aside all human feelings. Their English oppressors, too, have become as it were demons in human shape. The whole country is against the British. The Emperor of China has objected to the occupation of Bhamo.

Burmah.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

10. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 8th February, says that England pocketed the insult offered to her by Russia, with whom she knew she would not be able to cope. But England has behaved otherwise towards Burmah, which is weak. The different treatment accorded by England to Afghanistan and Burmah proves that the English behave in a different manner towards the weak and the strong.

Burmah.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

11. The *Navavibhākar*, of the 8th February, says that the stains which have been cast upon the English name by the annexation of Burmah will never fade away. The writer does not hope that the Liberals will abandon the Burmese policy of the Conservatives. Even Mr. Gladstone has not the courage to act against the wishes of the English merchants. Order has not yet been established in Burmah. If Burmah is governed as at present according to martial law, the disgrace of the English will know no bounds. Government should soon make arrangements for the establishment of order in Burmah. There is no hope of peace if the administration of Burmah is placed entirely in the hands of Englishmen. If the Burmese see English

Burmah.

judges, English soldiers, and English policemen everywhere, they will become still more excited. The Burmese law and the Burmese system of administration are not bad. The English should not interfere with the Burmese law or the Burmese system of administration of justice. The Burmese system of general administration also should be maintained for some time. Under Theebaw Burmah was divided into three provinces. These divisions should be maintained. The English will perhaps keep Englishmen at the head of these three provinces. But Englishmen should not be placed at the head of districts or sub-divisions.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

12. A correspondent of the *Pratikár*, of the 22nd January, in noticing a case of theft in Kagram, in the Bharatpore thana, remarks that policemen rarely go out at night. They write false diaries. The chowkidars in this respect out-do the regular police. The writer has never seen a chowkidar keeping watch at night for the last seven or eight years. There is an outpost in Kagram itself. One of the constables of the outpost went the other day to do some mischief in the village, and the villagers have broken his leg. He is now in the hospital. If the protectors of peace become peace-breakers, the country will be lost. The police authorities should enquire into this matter.

PATRIKAR,
Jan. 22nd, 1886.

13. The *Bhārat Bāsi*, of the 6th February, hears that a native will be appointed as an Additional Deputy Commissioner of the Calcutta Police. The writer hopes that the proposal will be carried into effect.

BHARAT BASI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

14. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 8th February, says that a dreadful dacoity has taken place at Jagaddal in the Sonarpore Municipality. The Sonarpore police is so worthless that the writer does not believe that it will be able to trace the offenders. It is rumoured that the Sonarpore police in order to save themselves from censure have already said that the people of the place have done this themselves owing to party-feeling. The writer hopes that the police authorities will enquire about the matter themselves instead of depending upon the local police.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

15. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 11th February, notices the death of a beggar by a carriage accident in the Beadon Street, and is sorry to remark that not a single constable was present there at 4-30 P.M. when the accident took place.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
Feb. 11th, 1886.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

16. The *Murshedabad Patrikā*, of the 3rd February, says that Baboo Kedar Nath Basu is now in jail. It is clear that the local Europeans conspired to punish the Baboo because he had telegraphed against the local authorities during the floods. Kedar Baboo never admitted that the threatening letter to the zemindar of Bagirathpore was written by him, and there was no strong proof that it was written by him.

MURSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
Feb. 3rd, 1886.

17. The *Bhārat Bāsi*, of the 6th February, says that the High Court has failed to check Mr. Currie, the Magistrate of Cuttack. Though his acts have been pronounced by the High Court to be illegal, he has not mended his ways. Sir Rivers Thompson is governing Bengal with his eyes closed, and so these acts of oppression cannot be checked.

BHARAT BASI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

BHARAT BASI,
Feb 6th, 1886.

18. The same paper hears that a son of Sir Richard Garth will be appointed a Judge of the High Court of

A Judgeship for the son of Sir Richard Garth.

Calcutta. Mr. Garth is an able man, and he has been recently called to the bar. But he

is a young man and has very little Indian experience. He should not be made a Judge so early.

BHARAT BASI.

19. The same paper is glad to hear that there is a talk of Baboo Kisor Mohan Chatterji, Barrister-at-Law,

Baboo Kisor Mohan Chatterji and Syed Amir Ali.

being appointed a Judge of the High Court of Calcutta. The Baboo is an able man and

every way fit to become a Judge. Syed Amir Ali too has a chance of becoming a Judge. He too is an able man.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

20. The *Sanjivani*, of the 6th February, says that Mr. Currie, the

Mr. Currie of Cuttack.

Magistrate of Cuttack, is not ashamed of his conduct, for which he has been censured

by the High Court. He is again harassing the mother of the late Maharaja of Burdwan. Is the time for removing Mr. Currie from the Civil Service not yet come?

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

21. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 8th February, does not

Sir Richard Garth and Mr. Justice Mitter.

attach any credence to the rumour that Lord Dufferin will not appoint Mr. Justice

Mitter to officiate for Sir Richard Garth when the latter goes on leave. Lord Dufferin is so astute that he is not likely to incur unpopularity with natives for such a trifling matter.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

22. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 8th February, says that Sir Rivers

The acquittal of murderers by native jurors.

Thompson should have considered why native jurors who do not hesitate to convict persons on charges of theft hesitate to

convict persons on charges of murder. It is not strange that Englishmen who some time ago hanged persons for theft should be sorry to see murderers escape death. The love of severe punishment is conspicuous in Englishmen only in India. In many countries capital sentence has been abolished. In those countries where it has not been abolished instances of its infliction have diminished. Hanging seldom takes place in England. In cases where the accused are liable to death, jurors are justified in acquitting them where the evidence of guilt is not clear. But this is intolerable to the righteous Civilian Judges and Sir Rivers Thompson. For this reason the Lieutenant-Governor has instructed the Sessions Judges to refer all cases wherein they differ from the jury to the High Court. But the facts do not justify the charge of leniency brought against native jurors by Sessions Judges. Among 346 sessions cases which were tried last year, there were only 69 in which the Judge and the jury differed in opinion. Where is the use of the system of trial by jury if jurors are to agree with the Judge in all cases?

NAVAVIBHAKAR

23. The same paper, referring to the rumour that Lord Dufferin will appoint Mr. Justice Cunningham instead of Mr.

The Officiating Chief Justiceship of the High Court.

Justice Mitter to officiate for Sir Richard Garth during his absence on leave, says that it

is not inclined to believe that Lord Dufferin will do such a wrong thing; and that if he does so, deep stains will be cast on his character, and an agitation will be set on foot all over the country which will stagger him.

DAINIK
Feb. 10th, 1886.

24. The *Dainik*, of the 10th February, says that Sir Richard Garth is

Sir Richard Garth.

going on leave. The question is, who will officiate for him. According to the established

rule, Mr. Justice Mitter should act in his absence. But the writer conjectures that Lord Dufferin will appoint his dear friend Mr. Justice

Cunningham as Officiating Chief Justice. If this be true he must say that Lord Dufferin has done something very wrong. The writer would not have advocated the cause of Mr. Mitter had there been any doubt as to his abilities. He is calm, intelligent, keen-sighted, learned in law, and righteous. All the qualities, which make an excellent judge are present in him. Why then is he going to be deprived of what belongs to him according to the established rules? There is no reply to this. The civilians are not in a position to give any reply. The writer thinks that the people have a right to hear the reasons which lead to the supersession of Mr. Mitter in favour of any other Judge of the High Court.

(a)—Education.

25. The *Sahachar*, of the 3rd February, says that there can be no doubt that the recommendation of the Education Commission that a Committee should be

Education Committees.

appointed every year for the consideration of educational matters in each province should be given effect to. Baboo Bhudeb Mookerjea has proved by the results of yearly gatherings of his subordinates for consultation about educational matters, the usefulness of such gatherings. But in order that such Committees may be really useful, representatives of all classes should be taken into them. If the Committees are formed like the Education Commission in Bengal of a few officials, no good will come of them. The management of the educational affairs of the country is no longer exclusively in the hands of officials. Private persons have now more intimate connection with the work than officials. Wherever there is a liberal-hearted Governor a committee formed with representatives of all classes will be appointed. The writer does not know any Civilian Governor who can be compared with Sir Charles Aitchison. Sir Charles Aitchison has appointed an Educational Committee containing representatives of all classes. Into that Committee representatives will be taken from missionaries and natives. The Punjab Government also desire to provide a suitable system of education and suitable books for infants. The writer has no doubt that good results will be produced by the Punjab Government's efforts in that behalf.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 3rd, 1886.

26. An old guru writing to the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 7th February, does not find the necessity of appointing Deputy Inspectors of Schools as examiners in the Lower Primary Examinations in the Dacca Circle. The Baboos try to show off their learning in the examination papers. Boys of eleven only are entitled to Lower Primary Scholarships. Learned questions should not certainly be put to these little boys.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 7th, 1886.

27. The *Sadharani*, of the 7th February, says that much inconvenience arises from there being no fixed Bengali text-book for the Middle Vernacularship examination in the Western Division. A Bengali text-book should be fixed for that examination in the above division for the same reason for which an English text-book has again been fixed for the Entrance Examination, and a Bengali text-book has been fixed for the Middle Vernacular Scholarship examination in the Presidency Division. The writer does not see any necessity for the inclusion of Ancient History among the text-books in History for the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination in the Western Division in addition to the History of India which alone is fixed as the text-book in History in other divisions. The candidates for the First Arts Examination have only to read the History of Greece and Rome. Consequently the boys who pass the Middle Vernacular Scholarship examination do not derive any great benefit in their University career from the study of the above book which contains the history not only of Greece and Rome, but also of Egypt, Persia, China, &c. In the Western Division the candidates for the Middle Vernacular Scholarship examination have to

SADHARANI,
Feb. 7th, 1886.

read a separate Indian Geography, which the candidates for the same examination in other divisions are not required to do. The candidates for the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination had to suffer great inconvenience on several occasions from the heading of the question papers being printed in English, and from the number of copies of question papers being insufficient.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
Feb. 3rd, 1886.

28. The *Murshidábád Patriká*, of the 3rd February, says that the Berhampore Municipality has done a very good thing in establishing there a technical school in which drawing, painting, ivory works, glass works, &c., will be taught.

29. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 4th February, refers to the remark made by the Lieutenant-Governor that, until the suburbs are included within the limits of the Calcutta Municipality, the number of deaths in Calcutta must continue to be larger than the number of births. This remark is based upon the report of the Sanitary Commissioner for 1884, in which that officer has dwelt upon the insanitary condition of the suburbs. The writer does not deny that the health of Calcutta depends in a considerable measure upon the health of the suburbs; but he cannot admit that the insanitary condition of the suburbs is the sole cause of the large number of deaths in the metropolis. The number of people living in Calcutta without their families is very considerable; and owing to this cause the number of deaths must always exceed that of births in the town, even if there should occur the desired improvement in the sanitary condition of the suburbs. The Lieutenant-Governor has pointed out the necessity of amalgamating the suburbs with Calcutta. The writer has always supported the proposal, and his views in this matter remain unchanged. But what he cannot approve of is that Sir Rivers Thompson is on this pretext seeking to attain an ulterior object. If on the plea of amalgamating Calcutta with its suburbs His Honour should seek to curtail the powers of the Calcutta Municipality, he will totally forfeit the respect of the public.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

30. The *Sanjivani*, of the 6th February, publishes a letter from a correspondent, who says that a zemindar in the Tangail sub-division of Mymensing is levying an earthquake tax from his poor raiyats at the rate of eight annas a rupee on the amount of their rents. The poorer classes are being ground down by this oppressive impost. The editor asks, was not the new Tenancy Act passed for saving poor raiyats from oppressions? Government should make an enquiry into the matter complained of by the correspondent without delay.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

31. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 8th February, says that Government has acted very wrongly in repealing section 36 of Regulation 10 of 1793 and in providing that no suit for breach of trust shall be brought against Collectors in charge of any wards' estate. A greater facility for oppression cannot be imagined. The writer is sorry to think that the more firmly English dominion is being established, the more unjust English laws in India are becoming. The new law has led to increased oppression on the part of Collectors.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 22nd, 1886.

32. A correspondent writing from Ghoshpore to the *Pratikár*, of the 22nd January, is glad to notice that on the application of the inhabitants

A station at Ghoshpore on the Bengal Central Railway.

the Bengal Central Railway Company has agreed to open a station at that place. This will prove to be greatly advantageous to the people of Baduria, which is a centre of trade. The writer asks the Company to open the station as soon as possible.

33. The *Sansodhini*, of the 3rd February, says that the Village Road Committee held a sitting on the 28th of January, and a resolution was passed as to

Village Road Committee.

how the money allotted for village roads should be spent. The writer thinks that supervision of village roads should be entrusted to a Deputy Magistrate, who will check the work of contractors and overseers. In the mofussil repairs of roads are executed according to the whims of those entrusted with the work. They pocket eight rupees out of ten, and no one can say anything against them. If the villagers get a high officer to supervise the work, they can lay their complaints before him.

SANSODHINI,
Feb. 3rd, 1886.

34. The *Samáchar Chandriká*, of the 4th February, notices that the Howrah People's Association has memorialized Government for the abolition of tolls

Tolls on the Hooghly Bridge.

on the Hooghly Bridge. The Association thinks that tolls paid by the Railway Company for carrying their goods will cover all the expenses of the bridge, and so the public should be exempted from the payment of the tolls. The writer hopes that Government will listen to this prayer.

SAMACHAR CHAN-
DRIKA,
Feb. 4th, 1886.

35. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 8th February, says that under the present Manager the mismanagement in the Eastern Bengal State Railway, which existed at the time of Colonel Gordon, has not ceased, but rather increased. The mismanagement in the southern division of the railway still continues. The want of a sufficient number of carriages has not been supplied. There is still a delay of 20 to 30 minutes in the arrival of trains. The rule that those who cannot purchase monthly tickets on the two appointed days of the month will have to purchase them between the hours of 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. is very inconvenient to persons employed in offices.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

(h)—General.

36. The *Pratikár*, of the 22nd January, says that a large sum of money has surely been expended in holding the Camp of Exercise, in paying the expenses of the foreign representatives, in sending troops from different parts of the country, and in other things. The sum spent on this occasion could have relieved a great famine in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, and could have relieved three famines in Bengal alone. Such wasteful expenditure as this at a time of financial difficulty, and when danger threatens the Empire on all sides, is indeed deplorable. Government may say that the natives do not understand its policy, and that it wants to stagger foreign powers by a display of its military power. If so, the natives will reply that it is foolish to show one's resources to an enemy. It is giving him facilities to prepare for the final engagement. It is spending money to court mischief. The English are engaged in a criminal enterprise in Burmah, and nobody knows how long it will take them to atone for the crime. Russia has assumed a threatening attitude in the west. The news from that quarter is becoming more and more alarming every day. Russia will have no difficulty in taking Herat. She will assume a terrible attitude after her occupation of that city. The Bonarwals have become troublesome on the frontiers of the Punjab. English prestige is going to be lost in Egypt. Greece has gone to war with Turkey in disregard of the remonstrances of Europe, and the English are sure to be involved in that war. Under such circumstances it is unwise to waste the resources of India.

The expenses of the Camp of Exercise.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 22nd, 1886.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 22nd, 1886.

37. The same paper says that Government would not have been under the necessity of rousing a spirit of discontent among its subjects had it not

The income-tax.

wasted its resources in so many different ways. The reimposition of the import duties would have served its purpose very well, but Government said that that would press hard on the poor by raising the price of piece-goods. But the writer thinks that that measure would be much better than the income-tax. Again why should the prices of these goods increase? There are manufacturers in India who will be able to supply the poor with cheap clothing. But Government has abolished these duties in the name of free trade, and in the interest of the merchants of Manchester. It would have been well for India if an indirect tax had been imposed in the place of a direct tax. Again the assessment of the income-tax will be attended with serious oppression. Many will be assessed who are not in a position to pay. The provision for taxing the income of joint-families is unreasonable, that for taxing the income of dwelling-houses is unjust. There would have been no objection to the imposition of the income-tax had it been only a temporary measure.

SARASVAT PATRA,
Jan. 30th, 1886.

38. The *Sarasvat Patra*, of the 30th January, says that the Select Committee, to which the Income-Tax Bill was referred, has indeed abolished the distinction

The Income-Tax Bill.

between Government servants and others, but it has done so in a way which has not satisfied the people. Instead of reducing the taxable minimum of Government servants to Rs. 500 a year, it would have done well to raise that of others to Rs. 1,200 a year. The writer thinks that the realization of the whole amount of the tax in one instalment will press hard on many. Many requested the Select Committee to make some clear provision about taxing the income of joint undivided families, but their request has not been complied with. Is Government very anxious to abolish the joint-family system which has taken so deep a root among the people in this country?

SARSUDHANIDHI,
Feb. 1st, 1886.

39. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 1st February, says that the imposition of the income-tax will produce greater discontent than income. Government should

The income-tax.

not have passed the Income-Tax Bill so hastily into law. Lord Dufferin is becoming even more unpopular than Lord Lytton.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 2nd, 1886

40. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 2nd February, says that while India is growing poorer, the cost of its administration is becoming greater. The

The English and the Natives.

proceeds of numerous taxes do not meet that cost. Money is becoming more and more necessary every day, and the sources of income are drying up. A proposal has at last been made for the imposition of the income-tax. But that too will not do. The advance of Russia has made the increase of the army necessary at a cost of two crores of rupees. But the income-tax will not bring to the treasury even one crore. Whence is the rest of the cost to come? Such is the position of Indian finances. But what will that position be when large additions will have to be made to the army? The people of India will pay as long as they can. But there is a limit to their power of payment. The English will have to leave the country when the people will be in no position to pay. If the English leave the country, the people who have to depend on England in every thing will be ruined. Danger to England is danger to the natives. If now the English can save themselves they will save the natives too.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

41. The same paper says that it is not opposed to the income tax, but it objects to the form in which the Income-Tax Act has been passed. It will in

The income-tax.

its present form press hard on the poor. Rupees 500 a year is not sufficient

for the maintenance of a family in this country. People possessed of an income of Rs. 500 a month will have to starve to pay the tax. Lord Dufferin should have taken this matter into consideration. He wants to curtail the necessities of life of the poor for the defence of the Empire. This is watering the top of a tree after cutting its roots.

42. The *Murshedabad Patriká*, of the 3rd February, says that the English are increasing the expenditure of the empire for the purpose of self-defence, the defence of the people, and the support of Englishmen. The people are sinking under the burden of taxation. Russia is advancing so steadily in Central Asia that no one will consider the expenses incurred for making a friend of the Amir of Afghanistan as unnecessary. But why have the English entered Burmah? And why should the natives of India pay for the Burmese war without a murmur? The natives of India were not made acquainted with the causes of the Burmese war, and yet they were called upon to pay its cost. If the extension of the empire be the intention of the English, what crime have the natives committed that they should be obliged to pay the cost of that extension in every direction?

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
Feb. 3rd, 1886.

43. The *Sahachar*, of the 3rd February, referring to the announcement about the appointment of a Commission to enquire about Indian affairs in the Queen's speech, says that since the assumption of the direct administration of India by the Queen in 1858, the country has made great progress. But Government has not advanced equally with the country. The Governors and the high officials spend a considerable portion of the year on the hills, consequently they cannot know the views of the people. Much money is being wasted. The Legislative Councils are mere farces. It has become indispensable to confer greater rights upon the people. Enquiries should be made into these matters. If enquiries are made properly into these matters, and if Anglo-Indians combine with natives, great good may result from the appointment of the Commission. The writer says that, unlike Russians, Anglo-Indians think it a good policy to keep aloof from natives and to tell them that they will never obtain the rights of English citizens. This policy has produced disastrous results in Ireland.

S. HACHAR,
Feb. 3rd, 1886.

44. The same paper says that the agitation against the income-tax should not be given up, because it has been imposed. Because Indians did not vigorously persist in making agitation against the license-tax, Government has been enabled to defend the imposition of the income-tax. The imposition of an income-tax, whether on large or on small incomes, is sure to cause oppression in India. Whenever the income-tax has been imposed, both the rich and the poor have suffered oppression. The writer saw this in 1871-72. The dozen or half a dozen of Indians who are supporting the imposition of the income-tax have neither reason nor experience on their side. They have only rejoiced at the liability of Anglo-Indians to the tax. The writer asks, do not these men know what the acting allowances of civilians are? More than 100 of the 250 civilians of Bengal draw acting allowances of from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 monthly. Government can easily give compensation to civilians for the payment of the income-tax by granting them such acting allowances, or by some other means.

S. HACHAR.

45. The *Surabhi and Patáka*, of the 4th February, says that the particular happy news of the last week is the overthrow of the Conservative Ministry. The Conservatives have exhausted the patience of Indians by their Indian policy.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Feb. 4th, 1886.

The Afghan war, the Arms Act, the Press Act, the License Tax, the Rawul-pindee Durbar, the Boundary Commission, and the Burmese war are all acts of the Conservatives. Though the Liberals have not rendered any great service to Indians, they have not troubled natives like the Conservatives, consequently now that Liberals have come into power, Indians may hope for peace of mind for sometime.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Feb. 4th, 1886.

46. The same paper is very sorry that Lord Ripon has not been appointed Secretary of State for India. No man probably ever showed such sympathy for natives as Lord Ripon. Regard for justice and righteousness was conspicuous in his administration.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

47. The same paper says that not only are native soldiers excluded from high military offices, they are also furnished with arms inferior to those of English soldiers. Owing to the apprehension of a Russian invasion it was proposed to arm native soldiers with rifles like those of English soldiers. But it is now said that they will not be armed with those rifles. The native soldiers suffered great inconvenience at the review at Umballa on account of the inconvenient nature of their shoes. The writer does not know when Government's partiality to Englishmen in all matters will cease.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

48. The same paper says that the recommendation that the lowest assessable annual income under the income-tax should be fixed at Rs. 1,000 has not been listened to. Consequently poor clerks, schoolmasters, and others drawing a salary of Rs. 41 and 11 annas per month will have to pay the tax. Such oppression upon the poor will produce more discontent than income. The recommendation that houses situated in municipalities should be exempted from the tax has not been listened to. Houses situated in municipalities have to pay tax in some form or other. It is unjust to subject such houses to further tax. Government's hastily passing the Income-Tax Bill into law has been very improper. In the last issue the writer expressed the apprehension that as the income-tax was going to be imposed upon educated and influential persons, a powerful agitation might be made, and that Government might be compelled by such agitation to substitute a more objectionable tax for the income-tax. But the writer has been reassured by a very good sign. The people have become anxious for the reduction of the expenditure of Government.

BHARAT MIHIR,
Feb. 4th, 1886.

49. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 4th February, is glad to hear that Captain Hearsey will soon ask the permission of the Viceroy to sue Sir Alfred Lyall for defamation. The editor thanks the Captain for his noble courage and sense of duty.

BHARAT MIHIR.

50. The same paper says that all the efforts of the two native members in the Legislative Council to get three glaring defects in the Income-Tax Bill removed proved unsuccessful. The first defect pointed out, namely, the proposal to make the tax permanent, would have affected Europeans, but the other two, namely, the minimum limit of taxable income and the provision regarding the levy of the tax from occupying owners of houses were not likely to affect that community. It was not therefore to be expected that the European members who had been conciliated by Sir Auckland Colvin in the Select Committee would offer any objection to the passing of the Bill. The case would have been probably different if Europeans and not natives had been likely to be affected by the objectionable provisions in question. Whenever Government wants money,

the people must pay taxes. There is nothing unjust in this. But it is the duty of Government to see that in paying any tax the poor are not oppressed. Possessors of a monthly income of Rs. 45 or Rs. 50 in this country who have to support large families will be subjected to great hardship in paying the tax. In England incomes are assessed after deducting therefrom the cost of living incurred by the assessee. This the Government has not done, nor has it fixed the minimum of taxable income at Rs. 1,000. By providing for the assessment of occupying owners of houses, Government has imposed a tax upon imaginary incomes. Government did not seem to understand that this would cause oppression, because otherwise Europeans could not be benefited. The Select Committee have made important concessions to the European community. In hastily passing the Income-Tax Bill into law, Government has shewn a total disregard of public opinion. It was passed in haste, because Lord Dufferin was to soon leave for Burmah. It is strange that the Viceroy's visit to Burmah was considered to be of more importance than a measure upon which would depend the weal and woe of tens of millions of people. The tax must be paid, but the people will never cease characterizing it as unjust.

51. The same paper says, that considering the present system of administration, the recruiting of the Indian army, and the perpetuating of race distinctions in this country, every thoughtful man cannot but think of the probable future of India. The people are in a state of subjection, and perfectly lack the self-defensive capacity. They are gradually forgetting self-reliance. The army as a career is closed to natives. In the midst of this general decline luxury is fast spreading through all ranks of the population. If this state of things continue, Indians will in a short time become the weakest and the lowest of all the races. It behoves the Government of India to attend to this subject.

The future of India.

52. The *Bheri*, of the 5th February, says that the Commander-in-Chief is very anxious to appoint a large number of European officers to native regiments. These appointments could well have been bestowed on deserving natives. Everything that Government does is for the benefit of Englishmen.

Officers in native regiments.

53. The same paper says that the establishment of a post-office at Maju has become necessary. The teachers of the aided school at Maju are willing to work for the post-office. Under the present arrangement letters are delivered at Maju from the Jagadbulbhpore Post-office, which is three miles away, every other day. This is felt to be a great inconvenience.

A post-office at Maju.

54. The same paper says that the imposition of the income-tax on incomes which are not sufficient for the bare necessities of life is a great hardship.

The income-tax.

Nitai Bagdi with five brothers and an old mother and five sisters-in-law, all of whom labour for their bread, has an aggregate income of Rs. 37 in the month. He has a thatched hut, the rent of which is estimated at Rs. 6 a month. Thus he has an income of Rs. 42 a month. Nitai has up to this time paid nothing towards the cost of the administration of his country, and therefore he must be taxed, though his income is not sufficient to enable his numerous family to live on half ration. Government did not even for once think of the hardship of such men's lot. No income is derived from dwelling-houses, and yet a tax has been imposed on the income derivable therefrom, and although they already bear a heavy municipal taxation. People whose ancestors have built big houses pay the municipal assessment with difficulty; they will find ten times more difficulty to pay the income-tax.

BHARAT MIHIR,
Feb. 4th, 1886.

BHERI,
Feb. 5th, 1886.

BHERI.

BHERI.

The impartial Government has abolished all distinction between Government servants and others, but it has made a distinction in favour of military officers. This is justice indeed! Those shipowners whose head offices are located outside of India will escape taxation, while those who have offices in India will have to pay the tax. The import duties were abolished, and Government did not venture to displease European merchants by their re-imposition. The imposition of the tax on English shipowners would have raised the price of English goods, and so no tax has been imposed on them. These are all instances of British justice. The natives are loyal subjects. They are to bear everything. They will wipe off their tears with one hand, and raise the other to bless English rule in India.

AL PUNCH,
Feb. 5th, 1886.

55. *Al Punch*, of the 5th February, gives a cartoon, in which Sir Auckland Colvin is represented as having lifted a fish with a fishing rod, which is styled the income tax, and Lord Dufferin is represented as standing with a bag and as exclaiming—"Good hook, thou hast secured a good prey. The pot will boil to-day."

URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

56. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 6th February, says that Government does not make good the promises which it has made to Mussulmans. Though Government says in its reports that Mussulmans have made great progress in English education, it does not show its recognition of that progress by its acts. Referring to the remarks of Sir Rivers Thompson in the Calcutta Madrissah that Mussulman Judges in the High Court are not necessary, as there are Mussulman barristers to expound the Mussulman law, the writer says that it is unreasonable to maintain this when six Hindu Judges have been up to this time appointed to the High Court in spite of there being a large number of Hindu barristers. The writer hopes that a Mussulman will be appointed to one of the vacancies which are going to occur in the High Court.

UCHIT VAKTA,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

57. The *Uchit Vaktá*, of the 6th February, referring to Government's reply to the Chamber of Commerce, to the effect that the objections urged by it to the income tax had been already considered, and that the Income Tax Bill would be passed into law before the Viceroy's departure for Burmah, the writer says that such an important Bill should not have been hastily passed into law. Whenever any objection is made to any measure of Government, it says that it has already considered that objection. How can Government under these circumstances be called other than a despotic Government? Government could have with justice imposed the income tax if it had found after the report of the Financial Committee had been submitted that it was impossible to raise the necessary sum by reduction of expenditure. Government could have easily saved the large sum of money which it has wasted upon the Umballa review, upon the Rawul Pindee durbar, and upon the Burmese war. It can also save a large sum of money by putting an end to the system of residence of the Governors in the hills. A large sum of money may also be saved by the abolition of the India Council.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

58. The *Samvád Prabhákar*, of the 6th February, says that the Proclamation of Lord Dufferin and the speech from the throne show that Burmah has been permanently annexed to the Indian Empire. But rumour has it that Mr. Gladstone is opposed to the policy of annexing Burmah. The entire population of India desire the setting up of a

The Burmese question.

Burmese prince on the throne of Burmah. Only Englishmen anxious for appointments are demanding annexation. Under such circumstances it is a matter of congratulation that Mr. Gladstone does not like annexation.

PARIDARSHAK,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

59. The *Paridarshak*, of the 6th February, says that the Income Tax Bill has been passed in the same way as the Vernacular Press Act was passed. Lord Dufferin's policy is being gradually developed. The writer cannot understand what terrible form he will assume. The Act cannot be enforced before April, why then was it so hastily passed in disregard of public opinion? Lord Dufferin will not listen to what the public says. This is not good for a ruler.

The income tax.

60. The *Sanjivani*, of the 6th February, expected that Lord Ripon would be made the Secretary of State for India in the new Ministry. But it has been disappointed. The writer has no respect for Lord Kimberley, who held that office in the last Liberal Ministry. He is sorry that Mr. Bright has been left out in the formation of the new Ministry.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

The new Ministry.

The Conservative Ministry has done immense mischief during the short tenure of its office. It has dethroned and deported Theebaw; it has deluged Bulgaria and Servia with blood; it has crushed India under the weight of taxation; it has entailed on India an expenditure of two crores a year for preparation of war and for the maintenance of 30,000 additional troops. It fell at a moment when it was trying to bring the armies of Native States within its power. Had it remained in power for some time more, it would have involved India in a war with China. The writer is not aware whether the Liberals will make any amends for the mischief done by the Conservative during the short tenure of their office. The natives can expect no good from the Liberals, but they need have no fear of any mischief.

61. The same paper says that high-handedness is a prominent feature of the administration of Lord Dufferin. The Barrackpore park was closed against natives some time ago, but recently it has been closed against Europeans also. Lord Dufferin likes even-handed justice. He has taxed one section of the community because the other section was already taxed. He has closed the park against one section because it was already closed against another. Even in Lord Lytton's time the park was freely resorted to by all classes of the people. What is Lord Dufferin driving at?

SANJIVANI.

62. The same paper would be glad if Government could point out that any one of the statements made in it against any action of officials is false. Government is so selfish and vain-glorious that it gets incensed at any hostile criticism. Those of the vernacular papers which are untruthful and disreputable should be punished. It is not proper for Government to blame all papers, and thus to try to save its own reputation.

SANJIVANI.

Government and the native press.

63. The same paper says that it is not a good sign that Government should spend money lavishly at its will and then impose taxes on the people without waiting to receive their opinion. If it goes on in this way the finances will be in a chronic state of deficit, and people will be ground down under the heavy burden of taxation. The consideration of the necessity of taxation should precede the consideration of the best means of raising an extra revenue. Government will empty the treasury by lavish expenditure and impose new taxes, it will go to war with Burmah for the good of English

SANJIVANI.

The income tax.

merchants, and throw the cost of the war on the people of India, and the people will submit to these things without a protest: all this is not proper. Government can impose objectionable taxes to make up for lavish expenditure. Such imposition does more harm than good. Though there is a great probability of oppression if direct taxes are imposed, yet Government cannot enhance a direct tax at its will, for then even a fool can see the amount of tax imposed on him, and an united effort is made to shake off the burden of taxation. It is desirable that such means of displaying energy should exist for the benefit of a lifeless nation.

When Lord Dufferin proposed in Council the imposition of the income tax he promised that a Commission would be appointed to see how far retrenchment was possible. Many believed that His Lordship was sincere in his attempt to make retrenchments. But as soon as the Income Tax Bill has been passed, the *Pioneer* says that a Committee will be appointed and not a Commission. If this is true people will not be able to put any faith in the professions of Government. What Lord Dufferin said in the Council, in the name of justice, proved to be worthless in the course of a month. Lord Lytton solemnly affirmed that the proceeds of the license tax would form a Famine Insurance Fund, but when these proceeds were in the treasury, Government changed its mind and spent the money in war. Lord Dufferin has outdone Lord Lytton in breaking his promise. He tried in various ways to prove his sincerity, and then all of a sudden appointed a Committee in the place of a Commission. The natives are fully aware of the difference between a Committee and a Commission. To a Commission natives and Europeans would be appointed as members, and the evidence of both natives and Europeans would be taken. Many unpleasant truths would be revealed during the course of taking evidence. The exodus to the hills, the expenses for pleasure, the high pay of European officers, the increase of military expenses, would all be proved before the world. The Government would be obliged either to set aside the recommendations, and thus break its promise, or to give up pleasures and improper expenditure; and so aware of the danger of appointing a Commission it has resolved to appoint a Committee, the majority of the members of which will be Europeans, with one or two native members to keep up an appearance of impartiality. If it has no mind to earn disrepute and disgrace it should appoint a Commission.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

64. The same paper says that the union of the executive and judicial functions in the hands of Magistrates under the Criminal Procedure Code is working great oppression to the people in the mofussil.

The Magistrate and the police often combine to punish innocent persons. Failures of justice in such cases are becoming more and more frequent. Lord Dufferin should take into his consideration the opinions recorded by statesmen on the subject of the separation of these two functions. The Indian Association sent two successive petitions on the subject to Lord Ripon, who has recorded his opinion on them. Lord Dufferin is now engaged in unjust quarrels. He has no time to look to these things. Lord Ripon's opinion has remained therefore a dead-letter. Had Lord Ripon remained in this country for some time longer he would certainly have carried his opinion into effect.

SANJIVANI

65. The same paper says that when there was a probability of a war with Russia, the English expressed a desire of entrusting native troops with Martini-Henri rifles, but now that the fear of Russia is all over they do not like to give them that weapon but the Martini-Snider. The native troops are ready to sacrifice their lives for Government, and yet Government does not trust them. Does it not understand that effects of this distrust are dangerous?

Distrust of native troops.

SARJIVANI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

66. The same paper hears that the delegates of foreign powers who were present at the Camp of Exercise at Delhi have said that the native section of the Indian army should have a larger number of officers. The Commander-in-Chief has been urging for more officers for a long time. A few Englishmen will, on this pretext, be provided with appointments. If the native army is poorly officered, natives should be appointed as officers. But Government will not grant what natives pray for.

Officers in the native army.

67. The *Bhārat Bāsi*, of the 6th February, thinks that the natives should not rejoice at the change of Ministry, however much they may love and respect men like Mr. Gladstone. The natives should not join any of the political parties in England; much mischief is likely to follow if they do so.

The change of Ministry.

BHARAT BASI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

68. The same paper says that it cannot help becoming glad at being assured by Her Majesty the Queen-Empress that a Commission will be appointed to enquire into the affairs of British India. But the time for rejoicing has not yet come. Many are of opinion that owing to the fall of the Conservative Ministry the proposal to appoint a Committee of Enquiry will be shelved. But the writer does not think that the Liberals will be backward in doing a good work like this. Where will the Commission hold its sittings? If it sits in England it were better not to appoint it at all. The evidence of able men should be taken. If it sits in England many Anglo-Indians will give evidence, but their evidence alone will not do. The Commission ought to enquire as to how the work of administration is being carried on. India was, is, and will be for a long time administered by civilians. So the civilians should be made defendants in the enquiry. But the Anglo-Indians, who will give their evidence if the Committee sits in England, are all civilians, and the military men and others who will give their evidence are the friends of these civilians. Those for whose benefit the Committee is being appointed should be given a hearing. The writer thinks that half the Committee should be composed of natives.

The Commission of Enquiry into the affairs of India.

BHARAT BASI.

69. The same paper says that the Income Tax Bill has been passed into law. The modifications proposed by Baboo Peary Mohan Mukerji and by Rao Viswa Nath Mandalik have not been accepted. It was wrong to pass such an Act in such a hurry. This act of Lord Dufferin has alarmed the natives, who think that His Excellency will act just as he pleases without paying the least deference to public opinion. The Chamber of Commerce requested him to postpone the passing of the measure for sometime, but he could not wait even for a fortnight. Lord Dufferin promised, when he came to India, to consult public opinion, but is this the way in which he consults it? The writer cannot approve of the action of the Viceroy. When people wanted to give their opinion on a measure of taxation, which was going to be a permanent feature of the fiscal system of the country, he said he knew what they would say. How can people trust a Government which acts in this spirit? Government is in urgent need of money, because it has unjustly quarrelled with its neighbours. But it could have imposed the tax for a year or two. People then would have got time to breathe. It should have tried to make retrenchments. The writer was under the impression that Government had no right to impose new taxes without trying its best to make retrenchments. Much saving could have been effected by giving up the practice of residence in the hills, but the rulers of India cannot give up their pleasures for saving the people from hardship. Can Government send away the civil servants? Can it employ natives in the place of civilians? Can it give up residence in the hills? If it cannot do all this

The income tax.

BHARAT BASI.

what is the good of appointing a Commission for making retrenchments? No appreciable reduction will be made by discharging a few clerks. It was wrong to have passed the Income-Tax Bill before the publication of the annual budget. An income-tax will not be able to supply all the extravagant expenditure incurred by Lord Dufferin.

BANGABASI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

70. The *Rangabási*, of the 6th February, says that the Native Press is always an eyesore to Government. In the administration report of the year 1884-85, however, Government is rather moderate in its censures on that Press. The Press will continue to do its duty in spite of what Government may think or say about it. It is always loyal to Government, always anxious to do good to the country. But it does not know why Government is so hostile to it. Rumour has it that the reimposition of the Press Act is being whispered about in high official circles. That Press will continue to be loyal in spite of the Gagging Act.

BANGABASI.

71. The same paper says that the Income-Tax Bill has been passed into law within a very short time. A Taxation Bill has been passed by the Council in the course of a month. Was the Bill properly circulated according to rules? It was published in the *Gazette of India* of the 5th, 9th and 16th January, in the *Fort Saint George Gazette* of the 20th, in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 13th, 20th and 27th, in the *Bombay Gazette* of the 14th, in the *North-Western Provinces and Oudh Gazette* of the 16th January. It was printed in the Central Provinces of the 16th January. Does Government consider publication of this sort to be sufficient for informing the 270 millions of the people of India? It appears that Government was not willing to consult public opinion in respect to this measure, and it gave the public no opportunity to express its opinion. It did not even pay much respect to the opinions of the native members who differed in many material points from the report of the Select Committee. Government has passed the Bill according to its pleasure, accepting only those modifications which were suggested by the English members of the Select Committee. The objections put forward by the native members were just and reasonable, and they had the approval of the public. The native members have done their duty. Baboo Peary Mohan Mookerjee fought bravely for the native community, though the Bill will not in any way interfere with his interests. It is a matter of congratulation that native members have learnt to uphold the honour of their nation in the Council.

SADHARANI,
Feb. 7th, 1886.

72. The *Sádhārani*, of the 7th February, says that the people are sorry that Government has rejected their just and unanimous prayer for the exemption of houses from the income-tax. There is no hope that Government will give up its point this year. Consequently there will be great oppression, unless the Collectors act with discretion. Collectors have the power under the Act to exempt houses occupied by zemindars or cultivators for cultivation purposes. Almost every one in the mofussil has a bit of land. The cultivators also cannot work unless they have a dwelling-house. It being so, the houses of such persons who have no other house are not liable to the income-tax according to the Act. Very good results will be produced if Collectors impress this upon the assessors beforehand. The dwelling-house, the cowshed, and the store-house of cultivators should not be considered as separate houses. Though these houses are built at a distance from one another for considerations of health or convenience, they should be considered as forming one house. The levying of the tax upon house in the mofussil or in municipalities is, as the writer has pointed out in preceding issues, unjust.

SADHARANI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

73. The same paper says that many persons are of opinion that by appointing a Financial Commission, Government is diminishing the people's eagerness for the proposed Commission of Enquiry. Be

A Parliamentary enquiry into
Indian affairs.

that as it may, the writer does not see any necessity for the sitting of both the Commissions. Let a Commission be appointed by Parliament, and let that Commission enquire about every Indian matter. India will not prosper unless the system of Indian administration is radically changed. Supposing a Commission to report that the Indian Government should reduce the military expenditure by a crore of rupees, and supposing Government not to give effect to that recommendation, how will it be forced to do so? The evil will be remedied only if Parliament checks such high handedness on the part of Government. For this reason the writer desires a Parliamentary enquiry.

PRAJA BANDHU,
Feb. 7th, 1886.

74. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 7th February, says that it is not opposed to the passing of the Income-Tax Bill, but it should have been passed according

The income-tax.

to established rules. The public should be informed before the passing of any measure, but in this case that has not been done. The writer cannot help saying that the Government is prone to oppression if it acts in this way according to its whims. Another law may in this manner be passed, and Government will be able to pass any measure at its will, and suck the life-blood of the people. When Government can by silencing the representatives of the people in one way or another pass anything it pleases there is no help. There is no other way of putting down these irregularities than by reorganizing the Legislative Councils. One good result is likely to follow from the imposition of the income-tax, viz., the race antagonism so rampant in Lord Ripon's time may die out and be replaced by a healthy growth of fellow-feeling between natives and Anglo-Indians.

PRAJA BANDHU.

75. The same paper publishes a letter from an old man who blames Lord Dufferin for hushing up the agitation almost universal in India, for the repeal

Lord Dufferin.

of the Arms Act, and for the admission of natives into the volunteer corps. His Lordship thinks that India is a very rich country, and it is dangerous to leave so much wealth in the hands of natives, and so he has proposed to deprive them of that wealth. For this reason he is spending large sums of money in things like the Pindi Durbar, the Camp of Exercise, and so on, and is imposing taxes on natives. Lady Dufferin is more shrewd than her husband. Finding that the miserly native does not spend money for the relief of famines and other things, she is trying to raise a fund in her name by a clever contrivance. Lord Ripon was a worthless fellow. He did not take Burmah, but Lord Dufferin leave a monument behind him by the conquest of that country. He is now going to Burmah. May he come back after establishing peace in that country by putting down the dacoits who are fighting for their freedom! May his name be victorious!

DAINIK,
Feb. 7th, 1886.

76. The *Dainik*, of the 7th February, says that the hostile feeling of Government towards the Native Press is not yet gone, and there is no hope that it will disappear in a short time. The crime of native papers is that they criticise the acts of Government and point out its mistakes and shortcomings. This is intolerable to a thin-skinned Government. It does not understand that by pointing out the wants and miseries of the people, and by publishing stories of European oppression, that press acts the part of a friend. In the Annual Administration Report of 1884-85 Government has said that a section of the vernacular press indulged, in the year under review, in objectionable language and published false information. Government would

have shown moral courage by giving the names of the papers which compose this section. Had there been no vernacular papers, the stories of the misdeeds of Government in the matter of famines and floods would never have been made known to the public.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 7th, 1886.

77. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 7th February, says that the Income-Tax Bill has been passed into law in spite of the protests of the entire population of India,

The income-tax.

simply because it was to be passed before the Viceroy proceeded to Burma. The writer is not opposed to the principle of the Bill. Rich men should contribute towards the expenses of the State. What is the time for the imposition of a tax? If the rulers find, at a time of danger, that the ordinary revenues will not suffice for the emergency, they may think of imposing a new tax. But the present Government is going to tax the people by spending large sums of money in residence in the hills and in paying the officers on an extravagant scale. The people cried for the reduction of these unnecessary expenses, but Government passed the Bill without paying any heed to them, because it said that it could not do without money which it sorely needed. If such was really the case, why did it impose the tax permanently, while people prayed that it should be imposed only for one year? How long will Government continue to disregard native opinion in this way? Will the natives be considered to be infants for ever? The nation which took so prominent a part in the administration of the country under the Moguls has not yet fallen so low that it cannot give an opinion on the subject of the imposition of a new tax. The natives are poor and helpless, and so Government will not listen to them.

DACCA PRAKASH.

78. The same paper, in noticing the proposed journey of the Lieutenant-Governor to East Bengal for the purpose of opening the Dacca and Mymensing

Sir Rivers Thompson.

Railway, remarks that it is surprised to find that the zemindars of that part of the country are very busy in organizing a grand reception to His Honor, who, since his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship, has looked down upon the natives, has never failed to thwart their interests, and headed their enemies. Rich men can spend their money any way they like, but by showing such respect to Sir Rivers they show that the nation to which they belong is worthless.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
Feb. 8th, 1886.

79. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 8th February, says that when it wrote last time that the income-tax would benefit the country to the extent

The income-tax.

it would have been benefited had the Jurisdiction Bill been passed into law, what should have been written was that the income-tax would prove even more beneficial. Had the Jurisdiction Bill become law, there would have been some probability of the removal of distinctions in the administration of justice between Natives and Europeans in the course of time, but the Income-Tax Bill has begun to benefit the people from the moment it was introduced in the Legislative Council. From that moment have Anglo-Indians and their organs in the press begun to find fault with the measures of Government. The introduction of the Income-Tax Bill has led Europeans in this country to raise such objections and make such protests regarding Government measures as would be likely to be made by natives. If Anglo-Indians should join natives in protesting against the injustice and oppression committed by Government, the country would doubtless be greatly benefited. If the Jurisdiction Bill had been passed into law, differences between natives and Anglo-Indians would have increased, but the imposition of the income-tax by placing them on a footing of equality in the matter of finance will make them friends. If the two communities unite and labour to get the injustice done by Government in financial

matters removed, their efforts may be succesful in a large measure. Government is in want of funds, and the income-tax has been imposed to supply this want. Retrenchments must be made, and if they are made natives cannot but come in for a larger share in the administration of their country. In that case Government will find itself under the necessity of redeeming its pledges regarding the employment of natives in the public service, and of still further relieving its officers of the many duties now imposed upon them, a large portion of which has been transferred to local bodies under the self-government scheme.

80. The same paper says that the object of the Rawul Pindee Durbar was war, and Providence saw it and roared and shed tears. The object of the Camp of

Lord Dufferin and the weather.

Exercise also was bloodshed. At this also did Providence roar and shed tears. There was rain and thunder on both these festive occasions. Lord Dufferin is going to Burmah, and there is rain there. Providence is weeping at the thought of the object of the Viceroy's visit to Burmah, but His Excellency's heart does not yet melt.

81. The same paper says that though Englishmen differ in their views on many political questions, they are all at one on the subject of the annexation of Upper

England and India.

Burmah, for which they all thank Lord Dufferin. The English have become so selfish that a ruler who can extend the British empire even by unjust means becomes entitled to their gratitude. Parliament has in consequence ceased to be an abode of justice, and the transfer of the Government of this country from the hands of the East India Company to those of Parliament has brought about its decline. Parliament has now reached such a miserable condition that sooner it is destroyed the better for India. It would be better for natives if the Queen could take the administration of this country into her own hands, or place it in those of one of her sons.

82. The same paper says that in forming the Ministry, Mr. Gladstone has not looked to the interests of India. He has disappointed natives by not appointing

Mr. Gladstone's new Cabinet.

Lord Ripon as Secretary of State for India. When Lord Kimberley, the the new Secretary, formerly held this office, he opposed many good measures proposed by Lord Ripon as Viceroy. Lord Northbrook would have been a better Secretary than Lord Kimberley.

83. The *Som Prakash*, of the 8th February, says that the review at Delhi has led the Commander-in-Chief to the conclusion that English officers are

English officers for native regiments.

indispensably necessary for commanding native troops. Upon this the *Pioneer* has recommended that at least 12 English officers should be appointed to each native regiment. Thus the military expenses of India are going to be increased more and more. Probably India will sink down at last under the burden of military expenditure. Cannot natives be appointed as officers in native regiments?

84. The same paper, referring to the rumour that the Telegraph and Postal Departments will be amalgamated next year, says that much reduction of expenditure can be expected from that scheme. But

The amalgamation of the Telegraph and Postal Departments.

Englishmen cannot be soon deprived of their bread. It is easy to dismiss one hundred native clerks drawing salaries of Rs. 30, but the dismissal of an Englishman drawing a salary of Rs. 3,000 is impossible.

85. The same paper says that the Garia bathing ghât has been much injured in the attempt to straighten the Tolly's Nullah. Unless Sir Rivers Thompson remedies this evil, women will have to suffer great inconvenience in this intense cold of winter.

The Garia bathing ghât.

ANANDA SAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

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PATRIKA.

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PATRIKA.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

SOM PRAKASH.

SOM PRAKASH.

SOM PRAKASH,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

86. The same paper says that natives should make efforts to get the Enquiry Commission to hold its sittings in India, for if it sits in England it will have to depend upon Government officials and retired civilians, who will try their best to protect their selfish interests. If the Commission makes enquiries in India, its work may be satisfactorily done. Efforts should be made to convince the Commission of the great mischief which India is suffering from the Civil Service alone. The injustice and oppression done by the Governors should be pointed out. The numerous instances in which English judicial and executive officers actuated by race animosity wound the feelings of the people should be brought to the notice of the Commission. The rigorousness of the criminal law and the Court of Wards Act should be proved. The oppression which native princes suffer at the hands of Governors should be shewn. A petition similar to that of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce should be sent from each province.

DAINIK,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

Rules under the Income Tax Act.

87. The *Dainik*, of the 8th February, says that Government has on the one hand exempted from taxation the sums paid, though they are a part of income, to the Life Insurance Funds, and, on the other, it has imposed a tax on dwelling-houses, from which no income is derived. But this cannot now be helped. And it has done another very improper thing. The Government of India has instructed the Provincial Governments that if any sum is paid in April on account of preceding months the tax is to be levied on it.

DAINIK.

King Theebaw.

The same paper says that it is unworthy of the English to place King Theebaw in the hands of a police officer. Theebaw is neither a thief nor a dacoit that he should be placed under the custody of the police. The English, who are a great nation, should not treat a fallen enemy with such indignity.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

The exchange rates.

88. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 8th February, says that India would not have had to pay the exchange rates if the same currency had been introduced by the English Government both into England and India. India's financial dealings are mainly with England. If a gold currency had been introduced into India, she would not have had to pay the exchange rates. Because England can easily profit at the expense of India, she has made the present arrangement. Silver is more largely found than gold. Consequently the value of silver will remain low and Indians will have to pay exchange rates. Government refuses to introduce a gold currency into India on the ground that a gold currency is not suited to a poor country like India. This may be true. But there can be no objection to the introduction of a silver currency into a rich country like England. In every European country except England and Germany there is a silver currency. In the foreign possessions of Holland and Russia a silver currency is in use as it is in those countries themselves. The writer does not expect that the English Government will benefit India by introducing a silver currency into England. The writer only hopes that the English Government will introduce a bi-metallic currency into England. Had England had to suffer like India from exchange rates, a silver currency would have been introduced. Indians can be relieved of the payment of exchange rates if they obtain the right of self-government like the Colonies. The Colonies have not to pay exchange rates.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

The Lieutenant-Governor and the native papers.

89. The same paper says that it is a matter of regret that the Lieutenant-Governor has censured the native papers this year also. But a sweeping censure has not been passed this year against native papers. Referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's remark that a "section of the native press showed itself too credulous in the acceptance of unfounded and frequently absurd

rumours," the writer says that so long as Government does not treat native papers like friends and does not furnish them with true information, this state of things will remain.

90. The same paper says that the impression is gradually gaining ground, that whatever the professions of Lord Dufferin may be, he has no hearty sympathy

Lord Dufferin.

with Lord Ripon's noble Indian policy. People see that Lord Dufferin is a supporter of the spirited foreign policy of the Tories. The impression is also gaining ground that he does not venture to introduce reforms into the administration, owing to the fear of Anglo-Indian influence, and that he is being guided by the counsel of civilians. Lord Dufferin is a shrewd man. He has undoubtedly understood that Indians will not be deluded by display, and that it is not wise in the face of the increasing political unity of India to act against the wishes of the people. The writer hopes that Lord Dufferin will act carefully.

91. The same paper referring to the statement of the *Statesman* that the Indian Secretaryship has been given to Lord Kimberley at the desire of Lord

Lord Dufferin.

Dufferin, says that this rumour also leads the people to believe that Lord Dufferin does not approve of Lord Ripon's policy. The writer requests Lord Dufferin to soon remove this impression from men's mind.

92. A correspondent of the *Samaya*, of the 8th February, says that the work of sending money-orders has been facilitated to a great extent by the introduction of

A suggestion about money orders.

the postal money-order system and also by the increase in the size of the money-order coupon. But the public will experience great inconvenience owing to an order that the forms will henceforth be printed only in English, and that they should be filled up in English.

The same correspondent says that the people in the vicinity of Jhampa, a village in Jessore, have been put to great inconvenience by the reduction of the Jhampa sub-post office to the status of a village post office, and by its transfer to Masvimnagar.

93. The same paper says that as long as Lord Ripon was in India there was no deficit and there was no fresh

The income-tax.

taxation. But as soon as Lord Dufferin entered India he became afraid of a Russian invasion, and then engaged in a war with Burma, the cost of which is to be paid by the people of India. Government would never have been able to impose the income tax had the natives not been utterly helpless. The Tax Bill has been passed in such hot haste that no time was given to the people and even to Provincial Governments to express their opinion. All reason and argument have been sacrificed for the sake of this tax. The Income Tax Bill has been called an extension of the license-tax law. But how can it be so called? The license tax was imposed for the creation of a Famine Insurance Fund. Government could easily have raised the sum it intends to raise by the imposition of the income tax, by the re-imposition of the import duties, and by abandoning the practice of residence in the hills. But Government dares not displease the merchants of Manchester and cannot give up the luxury of the annual exodus to the hills. It could have easily raised the entire sum it expects from the income tax, by reducing the pay of highly-paid English officers by one-eighth, and by employing natives more largely in the work of administration. The tax is being imposed for the construction of defensive works in order to prevent a Russian invasion, for making up the loss by exchange, and for paying the penalty of making unjust wars. But, says the writer, no forts will be able to put a stop to the advance of Russia. The best defensive work against its inroads is the loyalty of the

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

SAMAYA,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

SAMAYA.

people. Government is acting in everything in a manner so unreasonable and unjust, that it is losing the respect of the people.

SANATA,

94. The same paper says that before the establishment of British power in India. England was regarded as a third class, at most a second class power in Europe, but the conquest of India has made it one of the foremost powers in the world. The English have now become proud of their wealth and fond of pleasure. Their good qualities have disappeared. They cannot in their present degenerated condition conduct the work of the administration of a large empire. They display their heroism in expeditions against the Dufas, the Nagas, and the Burmese. They crouch before powerful nations. A true hero will protect the weak, and will consider it his duty to supply the wants of the needy. Those who rule India get into Government service by passing competitive examinations. They do not belong to high families, nor are they distinguished by their good qualities. If the English want to make their empire permanent they should give up their present policy. They should feel for their subjects, and that is their principal duty as rulers.

British Empire in India.

Europe, but the conquest of India has made it one of the foremost powers in the world. The English have now become proud of their wealth and fond of pleasure. Their good qualities have disappeared. They cannot in their present degenerated condition conduct the work of the administration of a large empire. They display their heroism in expeditions against the Dufas, the Nagas, and the Burmese. They crouch before powerful nations. A true hero will protect the weak, and will consider it his duty to supply the wants of the needy. Those who rule India get into Government service by passing competitive examinations. They do not belong to high families, nor are they distinguished by their good qualities. If the English want to make their empire permanent they should give up their present policy. They should feel for their subjects, and that is their principal duty as rulers.

SAMVAD PURNACHANDRODAYA,
Feb. 9th, 1886.

95. The *Samvād Purnachandrodaya*, of the 9th February, says that had the English not been selfish the lot of the natives would have been the happiest indeed. They have conquered the natives indeed, but that is no reason why these should be trampled under foot. Such hypocrisy is not suited to English character. Oh! Englishmen, do not oppress the Rajas of this country.

English rule.

indeed. They have conquered the natives indeed, but that is no reason why these should be trampled under foot. Such hypocrisy is not suited to English character. Oh! Englishmen, do not oppress the Rajas of this country.

URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 11th, 1886.

96. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 11th February, complains that the

The constitution of the Financial Committee.

Financial Committee will contain only one native member, and that all its members are officials. When the Committee is so constituted will it recommend the abolition of the system of exodus to the hills, or of those unnecessary posts which are filled by Englishmen?

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
Feb. 11th, 1886.

97. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 11th February, is very sorry that

The new Ministry.

Lord Kimberley has been appointed the Secretary of State for India. Though belonging to the Liberal Party he is a Conservative. No good can be expected from him. The writer cannot say why Mr. Gladstone has reappointed him to the post.

SAMVAD PURNACHANDRODAYA,
Feb. 12th, 1886.

98. The *Samvād Purnachandrodaya*, of the 12th February, says that the

The Retrenchment Committee.

Committee formed for making retrenchments does not contain the name of a single financier or economist of great repute. The public will not be satisfied with this Committee. The list of members of this Committee has been sent to the press by the office of the Press Commissioner.

SAMVAD PURNACHANDRODAYA,

99. The same paper says that the vernacular papers are still an

Government and the Vernacular Press.

eyesore to Government. In the annual Administration Report the native press has been censured as usual, but this time with some additional ornaments. The native papers are in the habit of telling unpleasant truths. Government does improper things, but the native press cannot approve of these things. It would have been well for the Lieutenant-Governor to have mentioned the names of those papers which he considers were in the habit of giving false intelligence to the people. It is a part of the duty of Government to admonish these papers.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

BHARAT MIHIR,
Feb. 4th, 1886.

100. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 4th February, makes the following

Amendment of the Chowkidari Act.

observations on the Bill, which has been introduced in the Bengal Council to amend the

Chowkeedaree Act :—It is needless to say that what the Bill really aims at is the curtailing of the powers of the punchayet and the placing of obstacles in the path of self-government. The writer does not deny that the service as punchayet is felt to be extremely disagreeable, but there can be no doubt that if the small powers now vested in the punchayets are taken away from them that service will be rendered still more disagreeable. The writer does not admit that the chowkeedars will work better if they are made independent of the punchayet. If this is done, it is to be doubted whether the police will receive from the punchayet and the chowkeedar the assistance which it now receives from them. Under the administration of Sir Rivers Thompson, local self-government appears to be gradually moving in a retrograde direction. He is seeking to curtail the powers of the Calcutta Municipality. If the Bill to amend the Chowkeedaree Act is passed into law, the village punchayets will become perfect non-entities. Even if the punchayets have really failed to show as much efficiency as was expected of them by Government, the blame does not lie at their door. For the amount of efficiency which they have shewn during so short a period, the punchayets ought to have been thanked, but owing to the perverse judgment of Sir Rivers Thompson instead of being praised, they are being blamed. Government throws the whole blame on their shoulders, and has not made the least reference to the fact that the police is the sole cause of the failure of the Chowkidari Act. It is the police which is solely responsible for the concealment of thefts and robberies. When the police goes to a village, it not often takes bribes from thieves and lets them off. Not to speak of punishing the thieves, the person in whose house a theft is committed has also to pay something to the police, on pain of being prosecuted for giving it false information. That the Lieutenant-Governor does not venture to approach the subject of police reform, is because he does not possess the ability and ripe judgment required for the task; and his only object would seem to be to thwart the scheme of self-government on some plea or other.

101. The *Bangabási*, of the 6th February, says that the Chowkidari Bill has been introduced in the Bengal Council. Government is giving self-government to the people on one hand and withdrawing it on the other, by depriving the panchayets of their rights. A proposal has been made to increase the chowkidari tax by the appointment of tehsildars and circle sirdars. The writer cannot approve that Government should pursue two contradictory policies at one and the same time. Cannot the powers under the Chowkidari Act be entrusted to the members of self-government Boards, who are being entrusted with the management of roads, schools, pounds, ferries, and so on?

BANGABASI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

102. The *Sanjivani*, of the 6th February, says that in introducing the Chowkidari Bill, Government is trying to deprive the people of the small amount of self-government they have. It is ruling the vast Indian Empire and spending vast sums of money and yet it is not satisfied. It is determined to take all power in the country in its own hands. While loudly proclaiming to the four quarters of the globe that it is granting self-government to the people, it is taking away all self-government power from them.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

103. The *Sádhārani*, of the 7th February, characterizes the statement of the Lieutenant-Governor that "perhaps our successors, fifteen years hence—I hope not—may be discussing the principle of local self-government, as applied to unions and sub-divisions, with something of the same feeling of

SADHARANI,
Feb. 7th, 1886.

disappointment with which we are now discussing, 15 years after the introduction of the Village Chowkidari Act, the unfortunate failure of police village institutions" as a curse. In whatever spirit the above remarks may have been made, those remarks come with no grace from him. He is the author of the Self-Government Bill of Bengal. If self-government prove a failure here, it will prove such owing to his fault. Is self-government to prove a failure merely because the Central Board has not been appointed for superintending the work of the lower Boards? Names matter little. The existing Boards are to all intents and purposes Central Boards. If the Lieutenant-Governor provides for the superintendence of the working of the self-government system by Magistrates and Boards, the system will not prove a failure.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

104. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 8th February, says that the people of this country are even more intimately concerned with the Chowkidari than with the Self-Government Act. The peace and happiness of seventy millions of people depend in a large measure upon the merits of this Act. The people of this country will approve of almost every word that fell from the Hon'ble A. M. Bose in the Bengal Legislative Council on the subject of the Bill to amend that measure. The Chowkidari Act, passed at the instance of Sir Rivers Thompson, has brought about many changes in the status of the village chowkidars. They have now become the servants of the police, though paid by the villagers. It is no longer their chief duty to guard the village, but to attend at the thana once a week and to obey the orders of the police. When the Act of 1870 was passed, the object was doubtless to create a police force to be paid by the villagers in subordination to the regular police of the country; but lest any such thorough-going change should give rise to protests, village punchayets were granted certain powers. These powers it is now proposed to take away by the present Bill, and the chowkidars will now become members of the police force. When Sir Rivers Thompson became Lieutenant-Governor he was grieved to find that the object with which he had got the Chowkidari Act passed was not attained. He therefore appointed a Commission to enquire into the cause of the failure of the measure. The present Bill has been prepared on the basis of the Commission's report. Mr. A. M. Bose has in his speech clearly shown that if the Bill is passed into law, people will be subjected to considerable loss and hardship, while instead of improving the character of the punchayet, the measure will have the effect of reducing it to the status of a mere agency for assessing the tax. Again, if the Bill become law, the punchayet will be under the necessity of raising increased funds for the payment of the salaries of the tehsildar and the circle sardar, the new officers proposed to be appointed; and this will certainly increase the existing unwillingness of villagers to serve on the punchayet. If the Bill passes into law, the villagers will lose even the little power they now possess over the chowkidars, and these will completely cease to guard the villages. The result will be that police oppression will increase.

SOM PRAKASH.
Feb. 8th, 1886.

105. The *Som Prakash*, of the 8th February, says that many things prove Sir Rivers Thompson's bitter hostility to the system of self-government. His treatment of the Calcutta Municipality is well known. The alteration which he is going to make in the punchayet law makes the belief about his hostility to self-government firmer. Instead of encouraging the punchayet system it will be practically abolished. Why are not the Local Boards entrusted with the work of the punchayets?

106. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 8th February, says that the present punchayets possess only a small fraction of the power of self-government which they

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Feb. 8th, 1886.

The Chowkidari Bill.

formerly possessed. Sir Rivers Thompson and his English officials are bent upon depriving the punchayets of even this small amount of power. The object of the Chowkidari Bill introduced by Mr. Garrett into the Bengal Council is to lay the axe at the root of the punchayets. The English themselves have reduced the punchayets to their present wretched state. They are now again trying to deprive them of their power on the plea of their incompetence. The English Government is not satisfied with keeping the army under its command, with disarming the people, and with the rigour of the criminal law, but wants to deprive the influence of the people over the village chowkidars also. The writer says that the chowkidars are doing their duties well under the punchayet system, and they will discharge their duties still more efficiently when the defects of that system have been removed. It should be seen that proper persons are elected members of punchayets. Such provisions of the present law, as are humiliating to the members of the punchayets, should be repealed. Competent men will not consent to become members of punchayets unless the powers of punchayets are extended. When Government is going to lay the axe at the root of the punchayets, knowing these facts, how can it be said that Government's object is to reform the chowkidari system? Sir Rivers Thompson and his officials are going to change the present system on the plea that experienced officials are of opinion that business will not be satisfactorily carried on under the present system. But the writer has no faith in the experience of the civilians who are the enemies of self-government. Civilians always recommend a policy which is the reverse of that which is recommended by the people. Formerly the punchayets were respected by the people and even by Government. Government can now improve the position of the punchayets by inducing competent men to become members of punchayets by extending their powers. A brave and generous Government should act in this manner. But instead of this, Government is depriving the punchayets of their power and is increasing the power of the police. Tehsildars will be appointed for collecting taxes. Everybody in the mofussil knows what dreadful instruments police tehsildars will become. Government could have easily placed the tehsildars under the punchayets. Another plea upon which the punchayets are going to be deprived of their power is that they cannot collect taxes. It is very easy to collect taxes. The real fact is that the punchayets sometimes remit taxes in certain cases in consideration of the inability of the assesseees to pay it. Is this a discreditable act? It is not true that the chowkidars are dissatisfied on account of arrears of their pay and are for that reason neglecting their duties. Had the chowkidars been so dissatisfied, they would have resigned. According to native custom, servants do not receive their pay monthly. If the chowkidars are made subject to the police, their salaries will have to be increased. Now the chowkidars obtain on an average only Rs. 2-8 per month. Consequently they have often to eat in the houses of the villagers. But when the chowkidars have been made subject to the police, they will no longer obey the villagers; consequently the villagers will no longer give them food. The number of village chowkidars is also very small. There is not even one chowkidar for each of the villages in Bengal. It is strange that the peace is being maintained by such a small number of chowkidars when Government is depriving the punchayets of their power. Under these circumstances, it cannot be said that it is doing so for the sake of satisfactory administration of the country.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BHARAT MIHIR,
Feb. 4th, 1886.

107. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 4th February, says that Lord Dufferin is said to be anxious to reform the armies of Native States. The number of troops in each State will be regulated on the basis of its population and income. The armies will be commanded by English military officers and will form part of the British Indian army. In short, the armies of the Native States will be reduced and placed under the orders of Government. It is greatly to be regretted that Government has not been yet able to place its confidence in the loyalty of the Native Princes. The effect of this reform will be what follows from distrusting a trustworthy person. But who will have the hardihood to disobey the orders of Government?

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 6th, 1886.

108. The *Sanjivani*, of the 6th February, says that Lord Dufferin wants to signalise his administration by an act of spoliation. There is a talk of interfering in the military administration of Native States. The armies of Native States are to be regulated according to their revenue and their population. They are to be placed under English officers and to be considered part of the English army. The English have several times broken the solemn pledge by which they have bound themselves to respect the rights of Native Princes, and they are sure to succeed in bringing their armies under their own control. Is it for this reason that Lord Dufferin visited their capitals?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BHARAT MIHIR,
Feb. 4th, 1886.

109. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 4th February, says that the recent crowded meeting at the Town Hall in connection with Lady Dufferin's Fund affords unmistakable proof that Her Excellency's scheme has the sympathy of the public. Everybody must admit that there exists great necessity for supplying female medical aid to the women of India. It is difficult to describe in adequate terms the beneficial character of the difficult and costly work which Lady Dufferin has undertaken and which bids fair to be crowned with success, only because a distinguished personage like herself has set her heart upon it. The editor sincerely wishes for the success of Her Excellency's scheme, and hopes that in giving effect to it all distinctions based upon creed or colour will be totally disregarded.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 7th, 1886.

110. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 7th February, approves with all its heart the establishment of the National Association by the Countess of Dufferin. All India should join this benevolent movement. If the Association succeeds in its attempt, it will supply a great want.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVAD BAHIKA,
Jan. 28th, 1886.

111. Referring to the report of the Select Committee on the Income Tax Bill, the *Samvād Bāhikā* remarks that the distinction between Government officers and private employés should not have been given up, for private servants have extra allowances, besides their salaries, which is not the case with Government officers.

UTKAL DIPIKĀ,
Jan. 30th, 1886.

112. The *Utkal Dipikā* is not at all satisfied with the report of the Select Committee on the Income Tax Bill. It is unable to understand why military officers drawing Rs. 500 a month should have been exempted from payment of the above tax.

113. The *Sebaka* has the following on the same subject:—"The modifications of the Bill, so far as the salaries of Government officers are concerned, will be keenly felt by such officers. The provision

The Select Committee on the Income Tax Bill.

which exempted officer's salaries under Rs. 1,200 a year has been dropped, and all incomes of less than Rs. 500 a year will be exempted. It will no doubt satisfy banks and mercantile offices, for their employés have been placed precisely in the same position with Government officers. *

It will no doubt be a great relief to the public to learn that the Act will come into force on the 1st of April next; but the public will have very little time to discuss the provisions of the Bill, for the Legislative Council are determined to pass the Bill before the departure of the Viceroy for Upper Burmah. One thing, however, is clear enough, namely, the sacrifice of the interests of India to preserve those of England, for the imposition of the income-tax might have been easily averted by the re-imposition of the import duties.

We beg to conclude our remarks on this Bill by offering our sincere thanks to the Hon'ble Rao Saheb Vishwanath Mandlik and the Hon'ble Peary Mohun Mukerjee for the trouble that they have taken in fighting for the interests of natives. Both of them have signed dissents at the foot of the report of the Select Committee, and both of them were willing to re-impose the import duties if they could do the same."

114. Her Majesty the Queen's speech, delivered at the opening of Parliament on the 21st of January last, forms the subject of comment in all the newspapers of Orissa. They are of opinion that Her Majesty should have spoken more about the policy that is to be adopted regarding the future government of India and Burmah.

The Queen's speech.

115. The death of Dasrathi Kabi Chandra, the celebrated poet of Orissa, is mourned by all the papers of that province. The *Sebaká* devotes full four columns to a description of the wonderful powers of memory which the poet possessed. They lament that they will not see his like again.

Death of a Uriya poet.

116. The *Utkal Dīpikā* has no sympathy with that Bill of the Bengal Legislative Council which means to amend the Calcutta Municipal Act, and thereby to take away the independence of that municipality, regarding the control and management of its sanitation department.

The Bengal Council and the Calcutta Municipality.

117. All the papers of Orissa are unanimous in advising the Salt Commissioner of Madras to appoint competent Uriyas to new situations that will fall vacant in the consolidated Salt Department of Orissa. They are jealous of the intrusion of foreigners into a department which can very well be administered by select nominees from the educated Uriya community.

The Salt Department and employment of Uriyas.

SEBAKA,
Jan. 30th, 1886.

SEBAKA,
Jan. 30th, 1886.

UTKAL DĪPIKĀ.
Jan. 30th, 1886.

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